

Strange NEWS from

ARPINGTON

NEAR

Bexly in Kent:

BEING

A True Narrative of a young Maid who was Possess'd with several Devils or Evil Spirits, one of which, by the Prayers of a Pious and Religious Doctor, who came to visit her, was fetcht out of her Body, and appear'd in the Room in the likeness of a large Snake, and twisted it self about the Doctors Neck, whilst he was at his Devotion.

With an Account also of other Devils which yet remain in her, and reveal several strange things, the like never heard before; of which, the Contents within, will give you a particular Account.

This Narrative is attested by several Persons of Credit, but amongst many others, by one Mrs. Hopper, a person of worth, and good Reputation, whom you may speak with at the Sign of the Bell and Dragon in *Whites Alley* in *Chancery-Lane*, who was there present whilst this accident happened.

London, Printed for R.G. 1679.

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August 4, 1934

A true and faithful record of the life and work of the late Dr. J. W. Alden, who was born in the town of Andover, Mass., on the 10th of May, 1844, and died on the 10th of May, 1934, at the age of 89 years, 10 months, and 10 days.

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London, Printed for R. G. 10.

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WHat Scope and Power the Almighty is pleas'd to allot the *Prince of Darkness, and his Evil Spirits,* would be more becoming the business of a large Volume, than a little Sheet: some Divines have indeed endeavour'd to guess at it, but none of them ever perfectly desided it. I shall not therefore trouble my Reader with any tedious harangue of several Mens opinions in this particular, but presently fall on the strange circumstances of this wonderful Narrative, the particulars whereof are of sufficient validity to confirm the most staggering and unresolved Christian, and to convert the most impudent and incredulous *Atheist* in the whole World.

The person nominated in the Title Page, who attests the verity of this Relation, happening to have some near Relations who lived very near the place where this occurrence happened, chanced some time since to give them a Visit, and hearing (as soon as she arrived there) a General Wonder, and seeing an Universal Consternation appearing almost in every ones Countenance, at this Young Maids being possess'd with the Devil or Evil Spirits, which for some time were heard to talk and shriek within her; she had a great curiosity to become an Eye-witness of what every one reported to be so miraculous, partly to satisfy her own incredulity, and partly that she might credibly inform others of what she had been so often told her self, contriving in this Resolution, she made farther inquiry after this business, whereby she understood, that those Devils or Evil Spirits which inhabited in this miserable Creature, like those which possess'd *Saul*, were not at all times injurious alike, but sometimes suffer'd her a little freedom from their unruly and uncompassionate Rage.

She was farther informed, that an eminent Doctor, whom she had long known, was the Maids greatest visitant; he by the double assistance of his Devotion and Physick, had bin much more effectual than all other means used towards the Mitigating or allwaging of her violent Fits, so that the Attester hereof, because she would see the utmost, chose out such an opportunity to go visit this possessed Creature, as these Fits were come upon her, and her Friend the Doctor was there.

The place where this distressed Creature lay, was at a Town known by the name of *Arpington*, above three Miles distant

distant from *Bexly* a Market Town in *Kent*, and it was on *Munday* the fifth day of this Instant *May* when this Attester went to see her; when she first entred the Room, She found the Maid in the very height of one of her dreadful Fits; dreadful I may well call them, since those envious Spirits within her, still retain their Devilish Natures, had contracted her Nerves, Joynts and Sinews, after so wonderful a manner, that they had almost drawn her out of human Shape; she appeared almost of a heap with a Face though comely and well favour'd before, yet in this Fit so squeez'd, and drawn out of Shape, that her nearest Relations, had not they been acquainted with what happened before, could not have known her, her Teeth were set, as at the approach of Death, and her strained Eye-string had pulled her Eye-balls an incredible way into her Head; in this dreadful posture she appear'd when the Attester came into the Room, and found her acquaintance Doctor *Boreman* earnestly at his Prayers by her, so that all the Spectators remain'd in a great Silence and expectation of what would be the event of so unusual an accident.

But no curiosity could be large enough to expect what immediately happened, for as this worthy Doctor was in the midst of his Devotion, notwithstanding the Maids Teeth were so set, and her Lips as aforesaid, yet at the very juncture, all the people might hear these Infernal Spirits groan as it were in her Belly; and whether it were through the extream fervency of him who Prayed, or any other supernatural cause, Heaven only knows, but at length one of these Spirits or Devils was heard by
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all the Spectators, and particularly by Mrs. Hopper, who then stood very near her, in a dreadful Tone to speak these words very distinctly, *Weaker and weaker, weaker and weaker*; which Exclamation it repeated four times over, and then ceased.

What Horror, what Consternation and Amazement did this, or rather did it not, work in the wondering Auditors, some of them clapt their hands on their Hearts, and with elevated Eyes, seemed to tell the rest, that Amazement had made them loose, or at least forget the use of their Tongues, others stood as still, as if they had been Metamorphis'd into Statues; others ran out of the Room almost senseless, and were sometime before they could declare the Reason of so sudden a surprisal.

But this Gentlewoman being of an undaunted Courage, was resolv'd to stay and see the last of what would happen, and therefore stirr'd not out of the Room till the Doctor had done, and a little after, both she and all that were left in the Room, might again hear one of the same Spirits within her, which had got possession of the Maid, to bark like a little Dogg twice together.

This was all that was heard or seen worthy of publick Remark at this time.

But on another day wherein this poor Creature was seised on by these Lamentable Fits, the same person was earnestly at Prayer on his knees by her, when behold a far greater wonder than we have before related, happened in the sight of a great number of Spectators who then came to see her. I know to many it will seem Incredible, for
I know

I know there are some people which will not believe there are any such things as Witches or Spirits, because they then know they must in all Reason be Induced to believe there is a God, which by reason of a constant course and habit of Sin, a usual custom of Flaring and Laughing at the News of a Heaven or a Hell, or an eternal being in the World to come; these would not willingly that the substance of a Deity should be found true.

But since no Reasons nor Examples will convince such obstinate humorists, let them persist irrefractory, till Startling Death, with its train of Terrors, open their Blind-Eyes, and in spite of all their unwillingness to the contrary, presents them with a Landskip of those infernal Territories; the gloomy habitations of Devils or damned Souls, where they are likely to remain to all eternity. In the Interim, good Christians will believe their Eyes and other senses, and when creditably and unanimously Related, as this, will credit the attestation of others; and therefore I shall boldly divulge this as an undoubted truth. That as the aforesaid Doctor was Praying again for this distressed Creature, a live and seeming substance forc'd its way out of her mouth in likeness of a large Serpent, and flew to the Doctor, winding it self, in the presence of the whole auditory about his neck, where it for some time remain'd, till some of the standers by were going to pluck it off, at which it immediately Vanished, and was never seen since. This I say was done before a Multitude of People, all of which are ready to confirm it under their hands, to be a visible truth.

There yet remains another of these Spirits in this
Maid,

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Maid, which many times distorts her in the manner above-mentioned, the noys of it is heard as she goes or moves; it will at some times answer several questions proposed to it, at other times make a hideous murmuring, as if it disliked its present habitation; which unparalleled wonder, People come far and near to see, and all return with the same acknowledgment, that they never saw nor heard of the like all their Lives.

POSTSCRIPT.

The Gentlewoman who gives her Attestation to the Truth of this Narrative, returned up to London, but on Munday last, she spoke with both the Maid (when her Fit was mitigated) and the Doctor, under whose Tuition she still remains, and from charitable endeavours we hope to hear of farther success; of which you may have a further Relation, and the unquestionable Truth both of that and this, attested by several substantial Witnesses.

F I N I S.

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